Letters to the Editor

Capitalistic CCF

The Colonist called the CCF a socialist party again on Feb. 6. And Arthur Turner, CCF MLA, supporting the same myth, said in the legislature that the three private enterprise parties should get together; that they differ in personalities but not in principles. However, on Feb. 7 we find the leader of the CCF uniting with the other members of the legislature in trying to keep the CPR ferries running. Are the businesses dependent upon the ferries operated in the public welfare or for profit? If the former, then the old line parties must be socialist. If the latter, then the CCF is pro-capitalist.

But then the CCF solution for unemployment is equally paradoxical. Socialism would mean production for use sans unemployment or employment. The CCF says that what is needed is a national investment board and over-all planning. They don't explain how this would create markets for idle factories. The pretentions of this "socialist" capitalist party passeth all other parties.

J. G. JENKINS.

959 Darwin Avenue.

Ferry Terminus

The intention, aim or mission is to establish a fast ferry service with the mainland, as soon as possible and at the minimum cost consistent with efficiency. It follows that in this, as in any other properly run civilian or military undertaking, various stages of development must proceed concurrently. The urgency of the situation has been accentuated by the recent announcement of discontinuation of coastal steamer service by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The selection of a mainland terminus may be difficult and time consuming but as long as docking facilities are provided prior to the estimated completion date of the ships to be used then the plan is being followed. If near completion of one operation hastens the development of another, so much the better, otherwise we may all be too old to travel by the time the ferries are in operation.

While cost is important it should certainly not be used as an argument to discard a solution to the docking problem. If it is reasonable to spend $6,000,000 on the ships then it would not appear out of line to invest up to this figure on adequate docking facilities. Where they are located is strictly a marine problem, and a solvable one. If a seasonable degree of latitude was not normally permitted in these matters we would still be sitting in England, facing the coast of Normandy and awaiting favorable wind, tide, and approval from everyone as to exact location of the landing.

W. G. BEEVERS.

2974 Oakdowne Road.

Aid for Symphony

After the splendid write-up in the Colonist Feb. 1 in connection with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, Hans Gruber, it has been disappointing not to have read some reference to it from somebody interested in the musical and cultural welfare of Victoria.

The community is fortunate in having so many accomplished musicians living in their midst and through the love of music giving four performances each month through the winter season in the Royal Theatre. It is to be regretted that such an outstanding organization should be on the deficit side of the ledger to the amount of $8,000, and the more regrettable that it's much admired and respected conductor should have the worries of raising funds.

With the success some of our local service organizations are receiving in raising money for worthy objectives, surely one of them would come forward and assist in placing the Victoria Symphony Orchestra in a much stronger financial position. What is more inspiring than the slogan divided in three: community service, love of music, hard work.

THOS. TREDAWAY.

1925 Brighton Avenue.

GEORGE SANDERS
. . . wedding bells . . .

MICHIKO SHODA
. . . wedding date

★ ★ ★

Names in the News

Accused Killer Cites Insanity

VENTURA, Calif. — **Augustine Baldonado,** who led police to the grave of ex-Vancouver nurse **Olga Duncan,** has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity in her murder and will be tried April 6.

Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, Olga's mother-in-law, faces trial next Monday for hiring **Baldonado** and **Luis Moya** to kill the girl so her son **Frank** would stay home.

★ ★ ★

MADRID — **Benita Hume,** widow of actor **Ronald Colman,** and actor **George Sanders** were married yesterday at the British consulate.

★ ★ ★

TOKYO — April 10 has been chosen as wedding date for **Crown Prince Akihito** and **Michiko Shoda.**

★ ★ ★

VANCOUVER — **Chris Pritchard,** labor representative on the B.C. Workmen's Compensation Board, has resigned. He gave his age, 65, as the reason.

★ ★ ★

MOMBASA, Kenya—Tribesmen in remote Narok are calling touring **Queen Mother Elizabeth** "Queen Mom, the Rainmaker." The sun was blazing in Narok when she arrived and expressed hope a drought would end; 30 minutes later, rain poured down.

OSLO — **Nikita Khrushchev** will visit Norway, Sweden and Denmark sometime this year.

★ ★ ★

HAVANA — Cuba's government has cut the presidential age limit to 30 from 35, opening the door to **Fidel Castro,** 32. The government also has started talks for withdrawal of the U.S. military aid mission to ousted dictator **Batista.**

★ ★ ★

TORONTO — **Lieut.-Gen. Guy Simonds** says that, if the West can get through 1960, "without any serious economic or military incidents it may be possible to have 25 to 30 years of peace."

★ ★ ★

LONDON — **The Queen** knighted actor **Alec Guinness** in a brief ceremony yesterday.

★ ★ ★

OTTAWA — **Secretary of State Henri Courtemanche,** 42, has gone to Bermuda to recuperate from a mild heart attack he suffered two weeks ago.

★ ★ ★

OTTAWA — **Capt. William Strange,** 56, director of naval information, will go on retirement leave Feb. 27. He will be succeeded by **Cmdr. Reginald Hayden,** 42, deputy director, whose successor will be **Lt.-Cmdr. Charles McNair,** 38, of Vancouver.

★ ★ ★

PORT COLBORNE, Ont.—**Capt. Scott Misener** withdrew 23 of his 33 Great Lakes cargo vessels and laid off 560 men yesterday, then said the ships may return to work in the spring.

★ ★ ★

VANCOUVER — **Clarence Copp,** pioneer shoe merchant, left $750,000 of his $1,143,000 estate to the Gospel Perpetuating Foundation.

Gaglardi Tells Kiwanians:

City's Transport Problem Reflects Growing Pains

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi told Victoria Kiwanians yesterday that current transportation problems facing this city were a reflection of this province's strides in development.

Noting the threat by the CPR to cut off winter boat service to this city, Mr. Gaglardi said:

"I hope this won't be the case. I hope there will be enough protests from the city to keep the CPR ferries running at least until the province can get its own service into operation, and bring tourists and their cars to this lovely island."

The minister said the world, and B.C., were "in a period of metamorphosis — a time of change, from the motor age to the jet age to the nuclear age.

"I can see the time, in maybe five years," the minister said, "when you or I will be picked up anywhere in Vancouver, and dropped anywhere in Victoria, by nuclear power.

"There are those in the world who take a gloomy outlook for the future. I maintain that modern development has shrunken the world to a point where we have to get along together."

Continuing his theme of development, the highways minister referred to plans for northern British Columbia, "one of the last great frontiers."

Too few British Columbians, he said, knew enough about their own province, and were surprised and perhaps put out when outsiders made important discoveries in their own backyard.

He urged his audience to look for themselves; to take the family and the family car at vacation time this year and look into this province's hinterlands rather than heading south to the United States.

Creeping Ice Mass Hangs Over Town

HERBRIGGEN, Switzerland (UPI)—A bulging mass of ice, rock and earth moved with menacing slowness last night down the slope of a 14,000-foot mountain that towers over this tiny Alpine village, vacated by its 210 residents.

At any moment it could become a roaring landslide and an estimated 200,000 cubic yards might all but bury Herbriggen.

Pension for Johnson Not Sought, Needed

The lifetime pension proposed by the provincial government for Byron I. Johnson was "not requested or required," the former premier's son said yesterday.

Byron Johnson, Jr., said he was surprised by the bill introduced in the legislature Monday to provide his father with a $5,000-a-year pension.

He said it was unfortunate the government chose to use only his father's name in connection with the bill.

"If the premier had chosen to make a general bill, for future pensions, reaction by the public and by my own family would have been far different," he said.

The former premier and his wife are holidaying in California and his son was unable to say whether his father would accept the pension.

Premier Bennett had no comment yesterday on remarks by young Mr. Johnson.

But a number of government members, commenting unofficially, recalled that Mr. Johnson had been injured in a car accident while on government business in eastern Canada and had suffered a severe disability.

"He deserves the pension and is entitled to it," said one.

It was pointed out, also, that since Mr. Johnson left the government a pension scheme had been inaugurated for MLAs and that Mr. Johnson is the only living former premier of B.C.

Bonner Defends Sommers Handling

Stuck to Principles

Attorney-General Bonner stoutly defended his handling of the Sommers' case in an hour-long speech in the legislature yesterday and declared that "important principles were considered and adhered to."

And he suggested that his chief accuser in the case, Victoria Liberal George Gregory, who is also a lawyer, of making statements calculated to prejudice former lands and forests minister Robert Sommers at his long trial.

Gregory, who along with others has charged that Bonner delayed for two years in laying the charges which resulted in Sommers' conviction, had challenged the attorney-general to answer a number of involved questions surrounding the "Sommers' affair."

Sommers, who resigned from the cabinet in February, 1956, just before a government-ordered RCMP investigation began, was convicted last November and sentenced to five years in prison for bribery and conspiracy while in office. He opens an appeal here Feb. 16.

Mr. Gregory was not in the legislature to hear the attorney-general's answer to his challenge. He was absent with the flu.

Mr. Bonner said every effort had been made to leave the impression that "a great body of evidence" was placed before him by Vancouver lawyer David Sturdy and accountant Charles Eversfield in December, 1955.

The fact was, Mr. Bonner said, that in December, 1955, only a statutory declaration by Eversfield was offered. There was no supporting evidence to back it up until early 1956.

The attorney-general defended his decision to have the RCMP investigate rather than have a judicial inquiry. A judicial inquiry might "become politically desirable from one point of view or another, but the very nature of such an inquiry can result only in prejudgment of those answering charges and particularly charges of this nature."

"Looking back on the entire matter," the attorney-general said, "I would say that important principles were considered and adhered to, notwithstanding allegations of delay and everything else which the opposition has stated."

The first principle was that a man does not deserve to be placed under police investigation or made answerable to a royal commission until his accusers support their charges with evidence, he said.

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Navy (Comm.) 10.30-12.00 a.m.
Spokane vs. Cougars 8.30 p.m.
Victoria Press 10.30-11.30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 12
Royal Roads 8.00-11.00 a.m.
Naden 11.30-1.30 p.m.
Beginners 1.30-3.30 p.m.
Public Skating 4.00-6.00 p.m.
Beginners 6.00-6.00 p.m.
Minor Hockey 6.00-7.00 p.m.
Public Skating 8.00-10.00 p.m.
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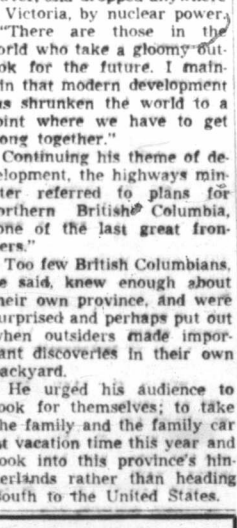

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